

Fort Dobbs Gazette

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Fort Dobbs Website Receives Prestigious Award

The North Carolina Museum Council (NCMC) presented the “Best Website” 2009 Award to Fort Dobbs State Historic Site at its recent annual meeting held in Rock Hill, SC. NCMC strives to enhance public education by improving the administrative, interpretive, and collections practices of museums, historic sites, science centers and related facilities in North Carolina and annually recognizes achievements in the state’s museums. The award was judged on artistic quality, ease of use, interactive capability, educational value, and general use as a communication medium.

Fort Dobbs’ website, www.fortdobbs.org,

was initiated in 2005 through a grant by Design Detail, a web design company located in Statesville, NC. Since that time, the website has gained national attention and has served as a medium for education, promotion, and communication. The website features historical, archaeological, event and educational information, podcasts and a gallery of photos. Beth Hill, Fort Dobbs Site Manager, recognized the award as “a result of hard work, tremendous support, and passion for the Fort’s history.” Design Detail’s owner Jan LeFevre is “thrilled about the honor,” and her continued involvement in the project.



Rob Rambo portraying Atta Kul Kulla, Cherokee Peace Chief, 1715-1780 at *War for Empire 1758*, Fort Dobbs 2008

Dispatch from the Fort by Beth L. Hill, Historic Site Manager



Challenges were nothing new to the colonists 250 years ago who were war-fatigued and in debt. The NC Colonial Assembly did not allocate funds to provide troops to the western frontier in the early session of 1759, leaving settlers on the frontier harshly exposed to Indian attacks. As the Anglo-Cherokee alliance disintegrated and attacks increased by the late spring, settlers on the NC frontier had left their homes and took shelter in Fort Dobbs. The frontier was in a “continual state of alarm” and the Assembly had no choice but to allocate the resources for two

companies of soldiers to be sent from the coastal forts with Major Waddell in command to protect the inhabitants. This spring at the highly acclaimed *War for Empire* event, held *April 18th-19th*, visitors will witness the harsh realities of war on the frontier while observing the endurance of the human spirit. The story of Fort Dobbs is an American story which highlights how Americans faced and overcame tremendous adversity with unwavering perseverance and resilience. Today, as it was 250 years ago, we pursue the American dream which at times is not the same for all people. Understanding the hardship of the colonial frontier puts our challenges in perspective and assures us that we are resilient people! *BH*

A New Trooper: Dobbs Welcomes New Staff Member



Wayne Steelman,
Fort Dobbs Maintenance Mechanic

Fort Dobbs recently welcomed Wayne Steelman as its newest staff member. Steelman, who was transferred from Horne Creek State Historic Site in Pilot Mountain, now serves as Fort Dobbs' maintenance

mechanic. The Division of State Historic Sites transferred Steelman to Fort Dobbs after a thorough assessment of its two-person sites and their staffing needs. Fort Dobbs was one of four two-person sites in the state.

Directly related to the key area of "Operations" set forth in the Fort Dobbs Strategic Plan (2008), the addition of Steelman fulfills the site's goal to increase staff to meet site needs. Steelman is responsible for the development and implementation of an updated site maintenance plan, which will fulfill "Operations" *Action Step 3*. Included in the site maintenance plan will be a new policy to allow for a controlled growth program for Fort Dobbs' fields. The policy, being initiated state-wide for Division Historic Sites, will more accurately reflect historic landscapes while serving as a cost-saving measure. In addition to the site maintenance plan, Steelman will develop and implement several other projects including the enhancement of the nature trail. Wayne Steelman lives in Love Valley, NC with his wife, Linda, 5 horses, and 11 dogs!

Living History Update: "With the Greatest of Attention.."

As 2009 marks the 250th Anniversary of the start of the Cherokee War, it is shaping up to be quite a busy year at Fort Dobbs! On January 31st, the living history volunteers of the Garrison attended a workshop at the site where Historic Interpreter Scott Douglas presented the history of this complex and dramatic Anglo-Cherokee conflict; an important, but often overlooked part of the war. Work continues on the interpretive winter shelter and plans are underway for the construction of a temporary mud bread baking oven. Construction has also begun on a new junior officer's impression. The coat will be based primarily off the portrait of Colonel Fell of Maryland, with some additional elements



Colonel Edward Fell
of Maryland

of British Regular officer's coats typically shown in period artwork. On January 10th, the Garrison was honored to participate in Governor Beverly Purdue's Inaugural Parade. Fort Dobbs was splendidly represented by 16 men under arms all of whom looked and marched extremely sharp! The first of the year's living history weekends, "***With the Greatest Attention to Command,***" will be held **March 21st and 22nd**. The public is invited to attend and even join in, as the garrison brushes the winter rust off of their military drill. **WAR FOR EMPIRE 1759** is scheduled for **April 18th-19th, 10-4pm**. A lecture by Jim Mullins, author of *Of Sort for Provincials*, will be amongst the highlighted programming. The recreated 1760 attack on the Fort will be featured at 1:30pm each day.

When it Was News 1759

Nathan Alexander to Governor Lyttelton – 4th May, 1759

I thought it my Duty to inform your Honour of the melancholy News, the Indians supposed to be Cherrockees did on the 25th and 26th Days of April last murder and scalp three white Persons on the Yadkin River and eight Persons on the Fourth Creek and three Persons on the south fork of the Catabaw River which has put our Frontiers in sad Confusion. We have sent to Governor Dobbs to inform him and has sent out some scouting Parties for some Weeks till we get further Instructions. There is many of the Inhabitants have already moved away and many more will go except some Means will be made Use of in order to secure them for they expect more of the same Nature daly.

Pinetree Hill, 5th May, 1759

Information upon Oath before Saml. Wyly, Esq.

On the south Branch of Catabaw River one Dutch Man named Conrod Mull, his Wife and Son sculped by the Indians (supposed to be Cherrockees) on the northern Side of said River in Wm. Morrison's Settlement eight Children of a white Man named Hannah, and two Families on the Adkin River (Names unknown) Sunday 29 UIt. As soon as the Catabaws heard of the Murder, 22 of them went out to bury the dead and 15 of their Warriours went voluntary under the Command of Mathew Tool accompanied by several white Men in Search of the Murderers. This Intelligence was given upon oath before me.

Photos From the Frontier



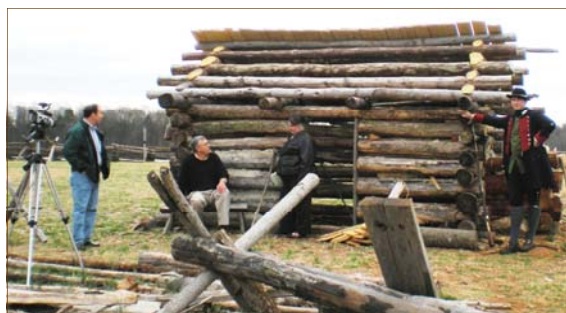
Dr. Jerry Cashion receives the Life-time Membership Award from the Friends of Fort Dobbs



North Carolina Provincial Soldiers march in the Inaugural Parade



Students Learn about Fort Dobbs' history



Dr. Gary Freeze of Catawba College and a film crew visit Fort Dobbs as part of a film project highlighting Rowan's history



Provincial camp-follower



Preparing to march



Garrison awaits dinner, December 2008



Fort Reconstruction Committee, Raleigh, Jan 2009



A delightful tune for the drummer!



Provincials garner statewide attention in Raleigh, Jan 2009



Candlelight Tour, Dec 2009



February snow blankets the winter shelter

Clothing and Equipping the Provincials For the Cherokee Campaigns of 1760-1761

By Jim Mullins author of "Of Sort for Provincials" (2008)

By the time open hostilities broke out between the once friendly Cherokees and English colonists, both factions had benefited from lessons learned in fighting the French and their allied Indians, as well as from working alongside each other in the prior campaigns. Virginia's provincials had been pushed towards a high standard by their commanding officer, Colonel George Washington, who struggled to achieve the uniformity



In contrast to the complete uniformity sought by the British Regulars and the Virginia Regiment under Washington, artifacts left behind by the North Carolina Provincials indicate that they utilized a wide variety of buckles which featured a decidedly mixed civilian appearance.

and professionalism for which the British army was known. While some colonies sought to provide bare bones basic slop clothing to get their

recruits through a single campaign, surviving necessary rolls indicate that Washington endeavored to attire his regiment in clothing similar to that of the British army, complete with laced hats with cockades, rollers, uniform garter and shoe

buckles and on at least one occasion, spatterdashes (see George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799:1st Virginia Regiment, October 26, 1758, *Necessary Roll at Loyal Hanna, Pennsylvania*). Supply issues and the augmentation of the Virginia provincials to two battalions for the Forbes campaign forced Virginia Provincials to adopt a decidedly unsoldierly American Indian style of dress consisting of shirts, breechclouts and leggings, but even then Washington strove for uniformity, requesting "As much green Half-thick's as will make indian-leggings for 1000 men, if green can not be had get white; if there is not enough of that get any color..." (Washington to D. Franks May 1 1758). This move likely pleased the Lt. Colonel (and later Virginia Regiment commander.)

Adam Stephen who commented after Braddock's defeat that "... you might as well send a Cow in pursuit of a Hare as an English Soldier loaded in their way

with a Coat, Jacket &c. &c. &c. after Canadeans in their Shirts, who can shoot and run well, or Naked Indians accustomed to the Woods (Adam Stephen letter to John Hunter, 7/18/1755)".

After the fall of Fort Duquesne, Washington resigned his commission, and Colonel William Byrd III lately of the 2d Virginia Regiment, became the regimental commander. As cold weather set in, uniforms still proved elusive for the Virginia provincials, prompting Lt. Governor Fauquier to purchase "*each of them a Blanket to be made up in to a coat to guard them from the Inclemency of the Season, which is the utmost, if not more than I have a power to do till the Assembly meets in February*" (Fauquier to Forbes Jan 24, 1759 Fauquier Papers). Despite the clothing shortages of 1759, Brigadier Gen Robert Monckton reported the Virginians under Byrd mustered "*about 400*" strong and added "*I can assure you do their duty as well as any Old Regiment*" (Monckton to Amherst Fort Pitt 9 July 1760 Survey Rpt 00415 ff 86-87 CRP).

A series of letters from Captain Robert Stewart to George Washington in the period after Washington had stepped down illuminate the differences in how the unit was attired and equipped under the command of Byrd. "*Scarce a man has a Bayonet, Lock Cover [an item Washington noted "The General directs, that the Troops be provided with covers to their Locks.."] GW To COLONEL HENRY BOUQUET Camp near Fort Cumberland, July 21, 1758.], Hammer Cap, Brush or Picker; Order and Discipline much neglected, the Adjutant laid up with a broken Leg, the Sergt. Majr. several Sergts. Corpls. and many private down with the small Pox -- we have only 166 fit for Duty at this place, tho' we have 4 Compys. & some from 3 more so that we must cut a very poor Figure both as to numr. & appearance. By the Colos. orders I have since my arrival been constantly employ'd in exer'sing them seeing them Drill'd and in endeavouring to get things restor'd some Order*" (ROBERT STEWART To George Washington WINCHESTER April 14th. 1760).

Stewart continued to complain the following spring: *"I on many accots. am encourag'd to take the liberty of Inclosing You a List of several indispensably requisite Accoutrements and Necessaries for the Regiment, which are not yet provided, and which we ought to receive previously to our Marching, it is needless to inform you of who so perfectly knows their utility & how much the Men would be Distress'd by wanting them, which, and their small Expençe consider'd, it's more than probable, that The Assembly will Order their being immediately furnish'd; there are several other things wanted, to complete us for the Field, particularly Tents and Bayonets, but it's probable the Crown will supply us with Tents, and the Nature of the Service we are likely to be employ'd in, will in some measure dispense with Bayonets, we can make Lock Covers of Cow Hides, and Hammer Slatts of Deer Skines &ca. --It is with infinite concern I observe, that, various unfortunate circumstances seems to have concurr'd in rendering the Regiment incapable of making that Figure and doing that Service, which it has always been remark'd for, and which will naturally be expected from it. The mean unmilitary Cloathing provided for the non Commission'd and Rank & File, plain Hats, and Leggings of different Colrs., has caus'd a general murmur discontent and heartburning and greatly depress'd that spirit hitherto constantly exerted in eclipsing other Provincials, and even vying with The Kings Troops, in uniformity, in appearance, exactitude, regularity, firmness and Intrepidity in executing the most arduous essential Duties of Soldiers, hence it's evident, how much that Spirit ought to be encourag'd and cultivated, and with what care every thing tending to damp or diminish it should be avoided, as it's certain, that to it's happy effects, & to Discipline are owing that establish'd good Character of our Troops, which redounds no less to the Cr. of the Colony than the Honr. of the Corps -- I believe its' allow'd that Rewards and Punishments are the principal Springs of human Actions, and Experience evinces their particular influence over the whole Rotine of a Soldr."* (Robert Stewart to George Washington, March 12, 1761).

Virginia was not the only colony faced with difficulties in equipping and clothing soldiers for the Cherokee campaign: *"Some of our (the North Carolina) provincials are in this neighborhood, but their cloathing is not come up, and they are in want of arms. When they*



British Light infantry soldiers in modified campaign dress provided the model for South Carolina Provincial Uniforms in 1760.

are to march is uncertain." (Salisbury NC July 26 1761 *New York Mercury*).

This situation continued, and by September 17, 1761 the *Pennsylvania Gazette* reported that *"Colonel Waddle was marched for fort Dobbs, with such part of his regiment as was provided with arms..."* Adam Stephen was not the only one who saw the need for

modifying the clothing of soldiers serving in the North American wilderness.

The British Army was experimenting with the equipment and attire used by their new Light Infantry companies, (as described by John Knox in *An historical journal of the campaigns in North America for the years 1757, 1758, 1759 and 1760*). The load (including clothing) carried by a British Grenadier in 1761 was estimated by Lt. Alexander Baillie to be a total 63 and 3/4s pounds (See page 78 of Ryan Gale's *A Soldier Like Way* for more info). As such, British soldiers experimented with cut down hats, shortened coats and other modifications to their clothing and equipment for American service.

South Carolina provincials, previously known as the "Bufs" likely due to their uniform's facing color, was altered to *"Blue turn'd up with Scarlet, made in the same manner as that of the Light-Infantry of his majesty's Royal or First regiment of foot, and looks extremely well."* (SC Gazette 27, September 1760).

Although information on the subject is fragmentary and very incomplete, provincial uniforms seem to have become more utilitarian and less heavily embellished during the period of the Cherokee campaigns, likely due to exposure to similar field modifications in use by the British regulars with whom they served as well as the financial considerations of their respective legislatures. Elements of Native clothing and dress were also added in for some units, and a greater emphasis was placed on mobility and comfort in the American Wilderness.

A native of Virginia, Jim Mullins became fascinated with American colonial history particularly that of the South West Virginia and antique firearms at an early age due to tales and folklore shared by his grandfather.

Relics of the Past: Neck Stock Buckle

This edition's subject is one of two brass neck stock buckles found at Fort Dobbs. The item measures 1 3/4 inches long and is approximately 1 1/8 inches wide and retains all four of its prongs and was recovered from the cellar.

A neck stock was a band, usually of linen, that covered a man's neck, buckling in the back. One end of the stock was a linen tab that threaded through the frame of the buckle to be gripped by metal prongs. The other end would typically have three holes to accept small metal studs on the buckle, which served to keep it attached to the stock itself.

Stocks would stand about two inches tall and would cover the standing shirt collar. During the period of the French and Indian War, a stock was generally worn by men of the upper sorts as fashionable dress.



In the regular British army, stocks of fine linen or even silk would be worn by officers, while coarser versions were issued to the private soldiers in many regiments. These soldiers would also often have a simple "roller" or cravat that could be tied around the neck. The stock would be worn by the enlisted men for more formal occasions, while the looser roller was used when on the march or during fatigue duty.

Unfortunately, no documents survive indicating whether the enlisted men of the



Linen neck stock reproduced by Wade Rogers

North Carolina provincials received stocks, rollers, or both, although issues of stocks are noted for the Virginia provincials. The stock buckle

discovered at Fort Dobbs raises intriguing questions about who may have used this particular fascinating item more than 250 years ago and how they came to lose it.

Institute of Museums & Library Services Grant Update



The implementation of the **Institute for Museum and Library Services Museums for America Grant** is well underway. The conceptual and

architectural component of the project began in August 2008 and is the team expects to have the plans complete by July 2009. Team members include Jerry McGinnis, Architect; Steve Bell, Project Manager; Larry Babits, Archaeologist; Russell Steele, 18th Century Construction Consultant; Al Anderson, heavy timber consultant; and Ray Cannetti, 18th century masonry consultant. The project team is working closely with the Capital Projects Unit for the Department of Cultural Resources and the Office of State Archaeology. The Long-Range Interpretive Planning (LRIP) process, also a part of the grant, will begin in April when a consultant is chosen to lead the project. The long-range interpretive plan will be a blue print for the site's interpretive and physical development and provide the basis for Fort Dobbs' comprehensive plan, exhibition plan, sign plan, and marketing plan. Based on Fort Dobbs' Strategic Plan, the LRIP will comprehensively analyze all site interpretive needs and determine a wide array of interpretive services, facilities, and programs to communicate in the most efficient and effective way the site's purpose, significance and themes.

Interactive Website Highlights NC's Role in French & Indian War

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources recently unveiled an interactive component of its Web site www.ncculture.com/interactive that highlights North Carolina's role in the French and Indian War. "This online project combines traditional and experiential learning," said Cultural Resources Secretary Linda A. Carlisle. "It's a fun and engaging way for teachers and students of all ages to learn about an important part of North Carolina's story." The project showcases battle reenactments, a look at frontier and Indian life, historic photos of the archaeological dig at Fort Dobbs, and interviews with historical interpreters, archaeologists and a high school student volunteer. Also included is a guide for educators, a suggested reading list for all ages, and a "Guess the Artifact" puzzle. Cultural Resources educators are showcasing the interactive site at the North Carolina Council for the Social Studies conference in Greensboro. "The Treaty of Paris, which ended the seven-year French and Indian War, was signed 246 years ago this week in 1763," said Keith Hardison, Director of State Historic Sites. "North Carolina's Fort Dobbs was on the western edge of what was then the frontier and is the only North Carolina Historic Site associated with the conflict."

FRIENDS OF FORT DOBBS ROLL CALL

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"To preserve and interpret North Carolina's only French and Indian War fort."

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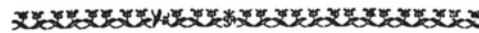
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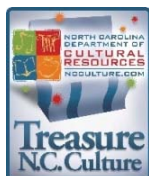
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